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Teacher Denies He Spied in Russia

"I have not done any spying, for the CIA or anybody else," Queens College instructor Albert Todd reiterated today, denying Russian reports he was a Central Intelligence Agency informer while in Russia.

Todd was among a dozen American professors and students accused of spying activities in an article published yesterday by Pravda, the official Communist party newspaper.

The reports indicated that a "sinister cloud" between Russian and American student exchange programs had been created by the CIA's activities.

TODD, A 40-year-old lecturer in Romance and Slavic languages at the college, spent 2½ years in Czechoslovakia as a missionary for the Mormon

Church before being expelled from the country in 1949.

He later was an exchange student in Russia during 1958-59 and it was there, Pravda says, that the CIA recruited him to spy against Russia while attending Moscow University.

Now living at 1 Thomas Point Lane, Port Washington, Todd last winter acted as host and interpreter for Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko during a highly-successful six-week tour of the U.S. sponsored by Queens College.

In a statement released by Queens College yesterday, Todd said that his activities were "only of an academic nature." He said the article "seems to be an exploitation of the recent disclosures about the CIA and academic groups."

Reached late last night, Todd added that the charges were "completely unfounded."

He said he had gone to Czechoslovakia as a teen-aged missionary for his

church about a year before the 1948 revolution in that country.

"I was expelled sometime later, as were most of the missionaries there then," he said.

He said that he had not been asked "by any government official" to pass back information on what he saw during his stay in Russia. "If any spying was done, I did not know about it and I certainly did not do it," he emphasized.

Todd graduated from Brigham Young University, Utah, with B.A. and M.A. degrees. He came to Queens College last fall from Indiana University, where he conducted a six-week summer preparatory course for exchange students going to the Soviet Union.

The Pravda article charged the program "is guided by CIA agents."

TODD SAID that being identified as a "long-time CIA agent" did not distress him greatly. "It has happened before to others," he said. "When charges like this are made, all you can do is keep repeating the truth. The fear of distrust is in all of us."

He added that he was afraid the charges would damage the cultural exchange program.

Todd spent most of yesterday attempting to keep busy with classes and meetings at Queens College, avoiding as much as possible the tumult of questions aimed at him.

"As you can tell," he said at 1 a.m. today, "I have not been very successful." He had not, he said somewhat wearily, been contacted by the government about the accusations.

Meanwhile, a history professor at the University of California also denied the reports that he was connected with the CIA.

PRAVDA HAD charged that Professor Martin Malia, acting as "an old CIA agent," persuaded a sick and elderly Soviet citizen "to fabricate slanderous information about his country for the CIA."

While denying the accusation, Malia said he did serve in 1955 as a special consultant for the Library of Congress. In a project sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, he negotiated an exchange of books between the Soviet Union and U.S. libraries.

In a related development, a spokesman at Queens College said today the school plans to continue its study abroad program during the summer for its students. The program was begun last year.

"The students pay all of their own costs and are chosen on academic ability alone," he said. During the visit, they study at universities, visit Soviet youth camps and take part in travel trips.